

# Weekly Explorer

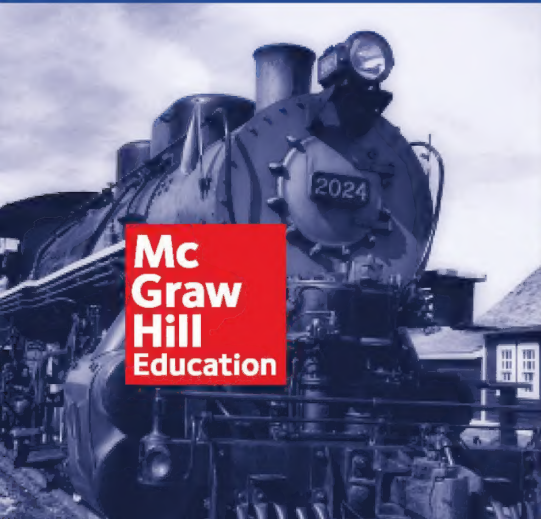
MAGAZINE



**IMPACT**  
CALIFORNIA  
SOCIAL STUDIES



**U.S. History**  
Making a  
New Nation



**Mc  
Graw  
Hill  
Education**



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# Chapter 4

## *The Road to*

# WAR



Why would a nation want to become independent?

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# A Cartoon Commentary



**"The Repeal, Or the Funeral of Miss Americ-Stamp" by Benjamin Wilson (March 18, 1766)**

While this famous political cartoon may look like a sad scene, it is actually celebrating a victory for England's North American colonists. In the cartoon, British leaders attend a "funeral" in London for the Stamp Act—a British tax on all paper documents in the colonies. The tax was repealed by Parliament in 1766.

Look closely at the political cartoon.

- Why would these British leaders be sad about the repeal of the Stamp Act?
- Why would North American colonists enjoy this cartoon?



# Game of War

Did you know that in the past, American Indians sometimes settled arguments by playing a game of lacrosse? When Europeans arrived in the Americas, they were fascinated by the game. However, as the British would discover in 1763, lacrosse was more than just a game to some American Indian tribes. It was *war*.

## Styles of Play

Different American Indian tribes preferred to play lacrosse using different rules and styles of play. The number of players and the length of the field depended on the tribe or tribes involved. One detail, though, always stayed the same: the game was intense. It blurred the lines between the lacrosse field and the battlefield. Some American Indians believed that lacrosse's **ferocity** resembled a type of battle training.

## A Game with Stakes

One of the most famous lacrosse games in history proved that the sport did indeed end disputes. But this time, things did not end quite peacefully. In 1763, British soldiers were stationed at Fort Michilimackinac on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. Local American Indian tribes wanted the British invaders off their land, so they came up with a plan.

The tribesmen set up a lacrosse game—right by the walls of the fort. The British soldiers, curious, left their posts to watch the game. But the players had brought more than their lacrosse equipment. The warriors stormed the fort, weapons drawn. Britain lost Fort Michilimackinac that day.

## WordBlast

What is the meaning of **ferocity**? What clues from the text help you know the meaning of the word?





## EXPLORE the Map

With a partner, look closely at the map.

- Which details from the text can you find on the map?
- Why was the fort's location useful for the British?
- Look at the map. Where was Fort Detroit in relation to Fort Michilimackinac?

What are some questions you have about the map? With your partner, figure out how you could find answers to these questions.



Location of Fort Michilimackinac



# *Danger in the Forest*



What if George Washington had not lived long enough to become our first president? On November 12, 1758, that possibility nearly became reality.

As France and Great Britain were fighting for control of the Ohio River Valley, young George Washington was leading a Virginia regiment of British soldiers. He and his men were stationed at Fort Ligonier in the Pennsylvanian wilderness. Earlier in the day, they had spotted a group of American Indians and French soldiers. Washington's second-in-command, George Mercer, took half of the regiment into the forest to investigate. Then gunshots were heard.

Concerned, Washington gathered the rest of his regiment and went to search for Mercer

and his soldiers. More sounds of battle echoed through the forest. As Washington drew closer to the fighting, the gunfire suddenly stopped. Washington ordered a group of his men to move forward and find Mercer.

Up ahead, Colonel Mercer and his troops were celebrating their victory. They had fought off the French soldiers and American Indian forces and captured three prisoners. As the sun began to set, Mercer's troops saw movement in the woods. A group of men was headed their way. Believing that the enemy had returned, Mercer's soldiers started shooting. However, the men in the woods were not the enemy. They were Washington's soldiers!





Washington's men were being fired on. They saw the prisoners in Mercer's camp and thought they had come across a troop of French and American Indians. So they fired back. When Washington arrived, he noticed something odd. The "enemies" on the other side were speaking English. He took a closer look and recognized a soldier from his regiment.

Washington ordered his troops to stop shooting, but many could not hear him over the loud gunfire. With the lives of all his soldiers at risk, Washington rushed into the crossfire. He stopped his men from shooting each other, and he walked away unharmed. Years later, Washington reflected on that day, claiming that his life "was in as much **jeopardy** as it has ever been before or since."

## WordBlast

**Jeopardy** means "in danger." The suffix **-ize** means "to cause to be." What do you think the word *jeopardize* means? Verify your answer using a dictionary.





# Growing Up IN A Colonial City

Let's step back in time and imagine our lives as American children when our nation began. You might have come from an English family, here since the 1600s. Or you might have been born in Africa, brought here on a slave ship against your will. Your parents might have been Dutch or German. Or you might have been an Iroquois or Cherokee, one of the very first Americans.

Where you lived made a big difference in how you lived. Many young colonists grew up in cities such as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Charlestown, which were built near deep harbors. There, young boys helped unload heavy wagons full of lumber, tobacco, and rice into tall trading ships from all over the world. Peddlers, barrelmakers, chimney sweeps, and ragmen called out in the streets. In most cities, the air smelled like rotting fish, garbage, and the leftovers of everyday life.

The wilderness wasn't far off, even in cities such as Philadelphia. Bears, coyotes, foxes, and wolves sometimes roamed the streets.

Some city children went to school, but many worked with their parents. If you were an enslaved African American child, you had to do any work that the slaveholder ordered you to do.



(bkgd spread)kzw/Shutterstock.com, (b)David Stuckel/Alamy Stock Photo





Young colonists were involved in the struggle for independence in many different ways. A number of teenagers participated in the Boston Tea Party in 1773.

In the evening, women and children sat on the front steps of their houses or walked to a small open area (called a "common," because it was shared land). There, children rolled large wooden hoops or played ninepin (like bowling), marbles, hopscotch, and leapfrog. The men gathered at local taverns to argue about war and independence.

Young people were aware of the conflicts between the American colonists and the British. They may have dreamed of independence and freedom. But could they imagine the **generations** of Americans who would follow them?

## WordBlast

A **generation** is all of the people who are born and live around the same time period. Compare your generation with the generation of children growing up during the American Revolution. What are some similarities and differences?



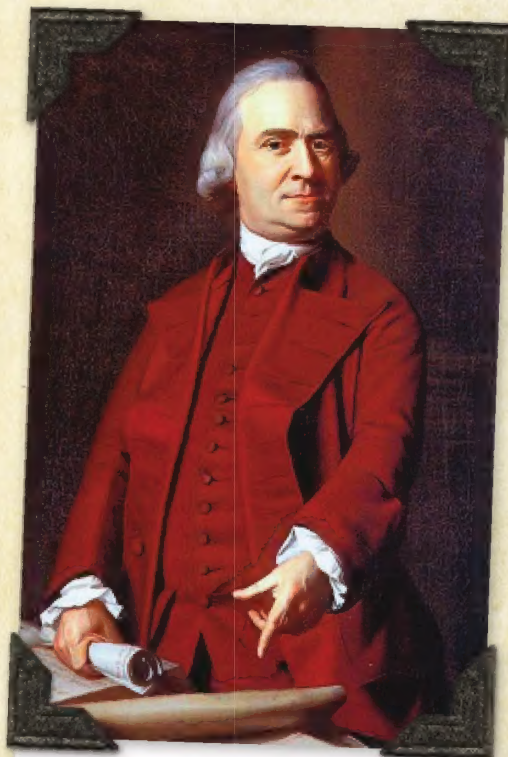


# All in the Family

As tensions grew between Great Britain and its North American colonies, so too did tensions grow within many colonial families. Even the members of one of the most famous families in American history found themselves at odds with each other. John Adams and Samuel Adams were second cousins, members of a prominent family in Massachusetts. While they both supported the cause of independence, they disagreed on how to reach that goal. Abigail Adams, John's wife, also had strong opinions about the future of the American colonies.

## Samuel Adams (1722–1803)

As one of the first **revolutionaries**, Samuel Adams spent most of his life fighting for freedom from British control. He believed in taking action and he participated in many protests, including those against the Stamp Act. He was quick to blame the British soldiers for the Boston Massacre in 1770. Following the Massacre, Samuel rallied more people to action. He later signed the Declaration of Independence and became governor of Massachusetts.



Samuel Adams fought for freedom from British control.

## WordBlast

What is the meaning of **revolutionaries**? How does the text help you figure out its meaning?





John Adams believed in peaceful law and order.

### John Adams (1735–1826)

Like his second cousin Samuel Adams, John Adams also supported the colonies in their struggle against the British. However, John Adams believed in peaceful law and order instead of the vocal protests made by his cousin. As a lawyer, John did not approve of Samuel's "mob" tactics. He did not blame the British soldiers for the Boston Massacre, but instead believed the crowd was at fault for inciting the bloodshed. Nonetheless, John Adams stayed true to the colonists in their fight for independence. John went on to become the second president of the United States.

### Abigail Adams (1744–1818)

"The Sword is now our only, yet dreadful alternative," wrote Abigail Adams in 1775. She, like her husband John Adams, did not wish for conflict. However, as it became increasingly clear that war was coming, Abigail remained a Patriot. She had hope in a new government—one in which women had a voice. As an opponent of slavery, Abigail also saw an opportunity to free "those who have as good a right to freedom as we have."



Abigail Adams had hope in a new government.



# The Story of Crispus Attucks

STORY AND ART:  
**EUREKA  
COMICS**

CRISPUS ATTUCKS IS AN AMERICAN HERO. HE IS ONE OF THE FIRST PEOPLE TO DIE FOR THE FREEDOM OF OUR COUNTRY, IN THE BOSTON MASSACRE OF 1770. BUT MANY DETAILS OF HIS LIFE ARE UNKNOWN.

HISTORIANS HAVE PUT TOGETHER A FEW CLUES TO GIVE US A PICTURE OF HIS LIFE.

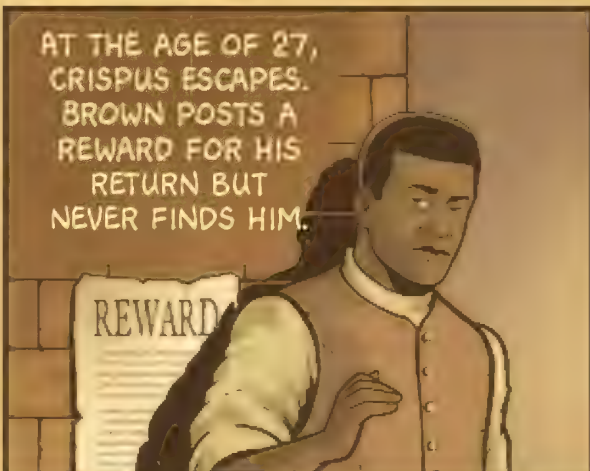
CRISPUS ATTUCKS IS BORN AROUND THE YEAR 1723. HIS MOTHER IS NATIVE AMERICAN AND HIS FATHER IS AFRICAN. BOTH PARENTS ARE ENSLAVED, AND SO IS THEIR NEW SON.



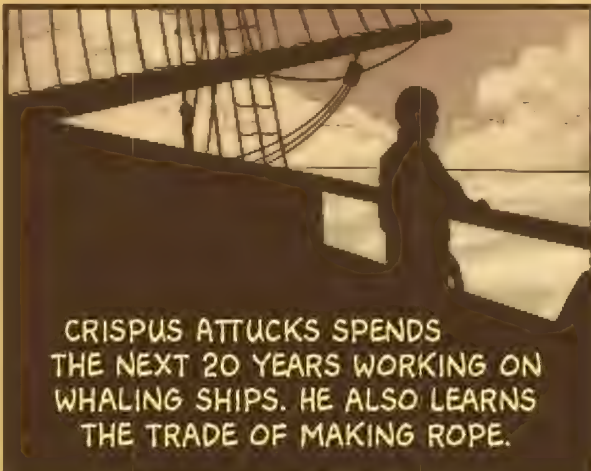
AS A TEENAGER, HE IS SOLD TO A SLAVEHOLDER NAMED WILLIAM BROWN. CRISPUS BECOMES KNOWN FOR HIS SKILL IN TRADING CATTLE.



AT THE AGE OF 27, CRISPUS ESCAPES. BROWN POSTS A REWARD FOR HIS RETURN BUT NEVER FINDS HIM.



CRISPUS ATTUCKS SPENDS THE NEXT 20 YEARS WORKING ON WHALING SHIPS. HE ALSO LEARNS THE TRADE OF MAKING ROPE.



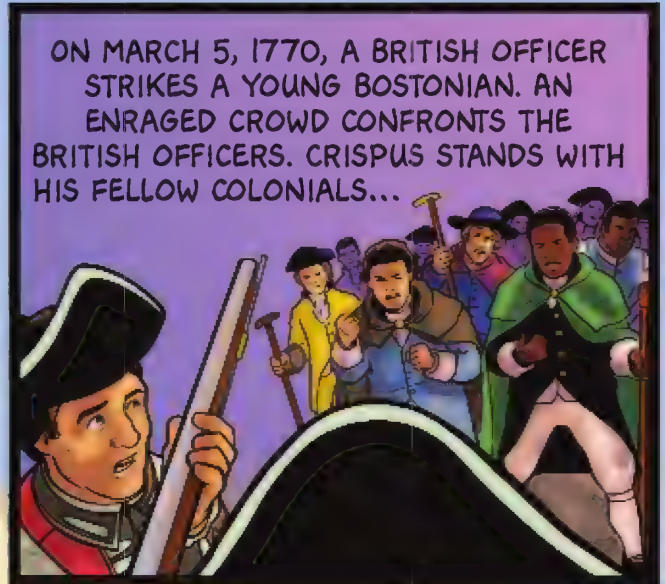


IN CONTRAST TO HIS EARLY LIFE, THE EVENTS OF MARCH 5, 1770, ARE RECORDED IN HISTORY.

CRISPUS ATTUCKS IS  
LIVING IN BOSTON, WHERE  
TENSIONS ARE HIGH  
BETWEEN COLONISTS AND  
BRITISH SOLDIERS.



ON MARCH 5, 1770, A BRITISH OFFICER STRIKES A YOUNG BOSTONIAN. AN ENRAGED CROWD CONFRONTS THE BRITISH OFFICERS. CRISPUS STANDS WITH HIS FELLOW COLONIALS...



AND THE FRIGHTENED SOLDIERS  
OPEN FIRE. CRISPUS ATTACKS AND  
FOUR OTHERS ARE KILLED.



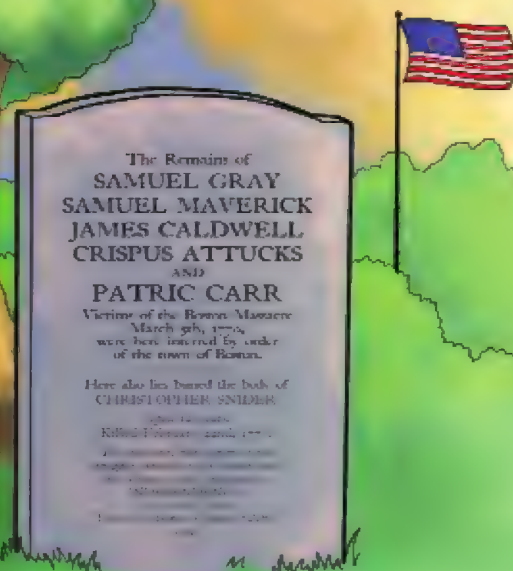
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THOUSANDS OF COLONISTS GATHER TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO CRISPUS ATTUCKS AND THE OTHER FALLEN HEROES.



THE FIVE VICTIMS OF THE  
BOSTON MASSACRE ARE  
BURIED IN THE SAME PLOT.

LATER, CRISPUS ATTUCKS BECOMES A SYMBOL OF THE ANTISLAVERY MOVEMENT.

AFTER ALL, HOW CAN A  
NATION THAT FOUGHT FOR  
FREEDOM DENY FREEDOM  
TO ANY OF ITS PEOPLE?





# Boycott!

When American colonists were forced to pay high taxes on British goods such as tea, they responded with a boycott of British imports. This hurt British businesses, and Parliament was pressured to repeal many of the taxes. People have used boycotts to fight wrongs at other pivotal moments in United States history.



Rosa Parks was at the center of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

## The Montgomery Bus Boycott

In 1955, when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white person, she was arrested. Civil rights leaders called for a boycott of the bus system in Montgomery, Alabama. The boycott was a success. It rallied support against racial injustice across the United States.

## The United Farm Workers' Grape Boycott

Migrant workers picking grapes in California earned very low pay and suffered from poor working conditions. In 1968, César Chávez and the United Farm Workers union called for a worldwide boycott of California grapes. The boycott ended in 1970, when grape growers agreed to improve conditions.





# Take Action!

## More to Explore

Here are more questions that you can research and discuss.

What role did American Indians play in events before the Revolutionary War?

How did other leaders of the American Revolution participate in the struggle for independence?

Find out about another boycott in United States history. What were its goals, and what did it achieve?

### WordBlast

- How did the **ferocity** of lacrosse help American Indians?
- How is your generation different from your parents **generation**?
- When was George Washington's life in **jeopardy**?
- In what ways did **revolutionaries** protest British control?



### Reflect

Why would a nation want to become independent?



## Chapter 5

# The American Revolution



What does the revolutionary era tell us about our nation today?

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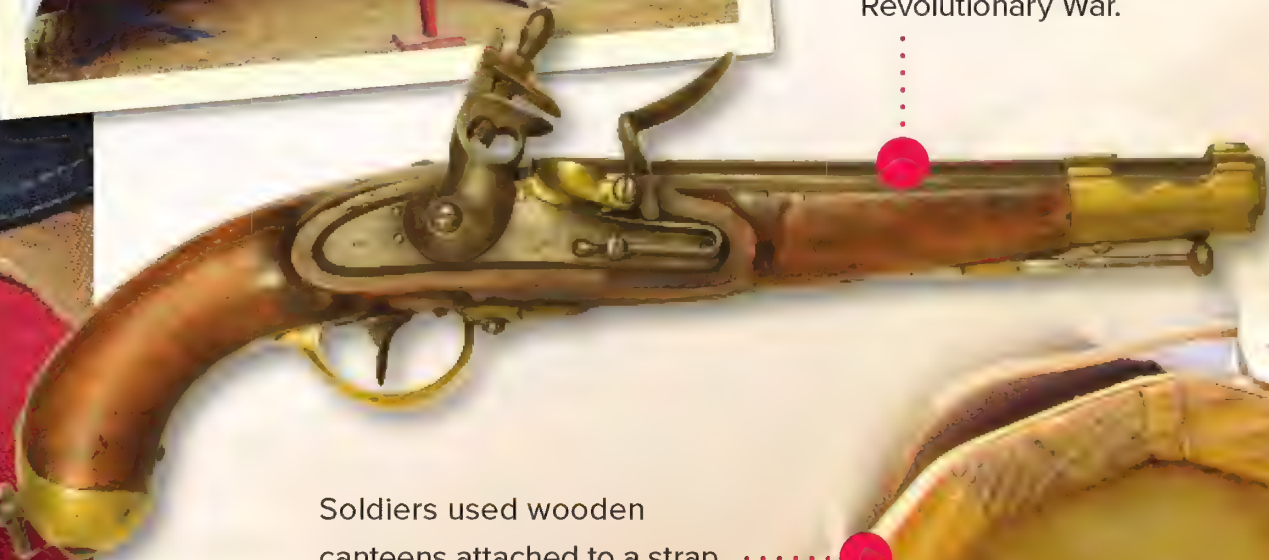


# Artifacts of the American Revolution

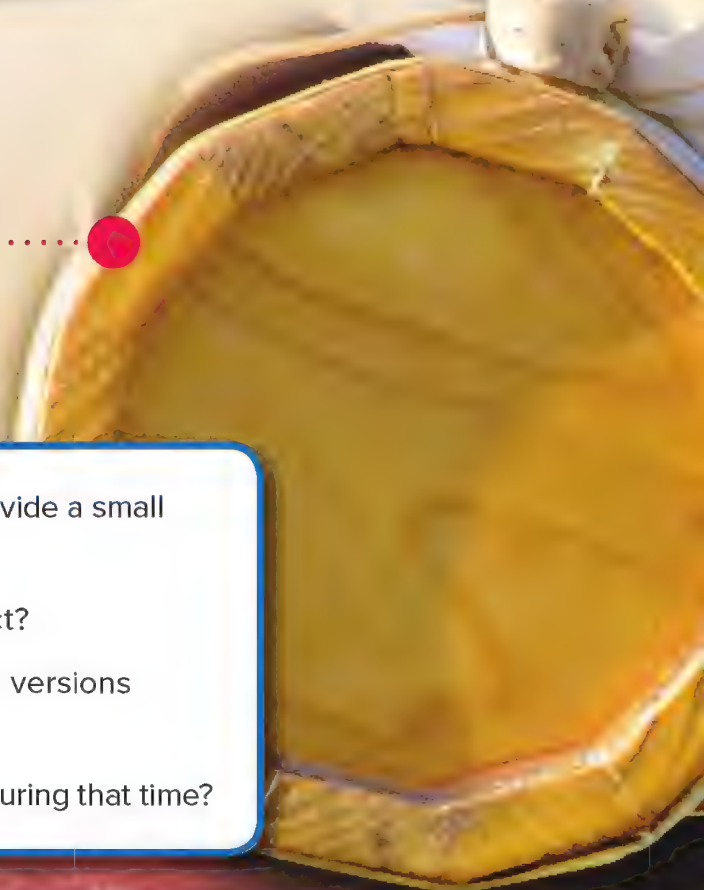


..... As this replica shows, a colonial officer's tent was small but allowed the officer some privacy.

This flintlock pistol dates to the Revolutionary War.



Soldiers used wooden canteens attached to a strap ..... for easy carrying.



These artifacts from the American Revolution provide a small glimpse into life during the war.

- What details do you notice about each artifact?
- How do these artifacts compare with modern versions of these items?
- What can you learn about a soldier's daily life during that time?



# Two Midnight Rides

What makes a person legendary? A person is legendary when he or she does something wonderful or brave enough to become famous. Both Sybil Ludington and Paul Revere took legendary rides to help the colonies in their conflict against the British during the American Revolution.

On April 16, 1775, Paul Revere rode his horse to Concord, Massachusetts. He warned the colonial soldiers to protect their supply of weapons from the advancing British troops. On April 18, 1775, Revere

rode from Charlestown to Boston to warn soldiers that the British were coming.

Two years later, on the night of April 26, 1777, sixteen-year-old Sybil Ludington rode forty miles on her horse to Danbury, Connecticut. She warned soldiers that the British were coming. Today we can see reminders of Sybil's ride. There is a statue of Sybil on horseback that stands in Carmel, New York, and a postage stamp issued in her honor.

## CONNECT THROUGH LITERATURE

### *Another Spectacular Ride*

by Drollene P. Brown

*This work of historical fiction imagines the night that Sybil Ludington, daughter of Colonel Henry Ludington, notices an unnatural red glow in the east. It is the evening of April 26, 1777. After dinner, a courier arrives at the Ludington home with news.*

Turning to Sybil, Colonel Ludington said, "That red glow in the sky is from Danbury, Connecticut. There are about two thousand British soldiers there burning the town, and they're heading for Ridgefield. I must stay here to prepare for the battle, but someone must alert our men."

"I'll go! Star and I can do it!"

Sybil exclaimed. Sybil's horse, Star, was sure of foot and would do anything Sybil asked.

"There are dangers other than slippery paths," her mother warned. "Outlaws or deserters or even British soldiers may be on the road. You must be wary in a way that Star cannot."



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Top spread/Ingram Publishing/SuperStock, (bottom spread)Alexander Nolling/EyeEm/Getty Images, (r)Alberto BN Junior/Moment/Getty Images

The roads were often slippery with mud and wet stones, and the **terrain** was frequently hilly and wooded. Sybil's ears strained for sounds of other riders who might try to steal her horse or stop her mission. Twice she pulled Star off the path while unknown

Afterward, General George Washington gave his personal thanks to Sybil for her courageous deed. Her ride would go down in history, and she would be forever remembered as a heroine of the American Revolution.

What do you think **terrain** means? How does the text help you figure that out?



# Washington's Spies

George Washington was a great man. He was president and a general in the American Revolution. But one of the little known facts about him is that he was a spymaster. In fact, during the Revolution, he led a whole spy **network**!

The network was known as the Culper Spy Ring. Benjamin Tallmadge, an officer under Washington, created the network under the general's orders. Also in the group were Robert Townsend, James Rivington, Abraham Woodhull, Austin Roe, Anna Smith Strong, Caleb Brewster, and many others.

Many people gave intelligence and information to the people in the spy ring. From there, the spies sent it to George Washington. But there was a catch to the written messages they sent. Each one was in code, and they used different codes. If any message was intercepted by an enemy who figured out the code, the Spy Ring couldn't apply that code to other written messages.

## Sending Secret Messages

Benjamin Tallmadge gave the Culper Spy Ring agents a cipher, shown below. The letters in the bottom row were used in place of the letters in the top row.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z  
e f g h i j a b c d o m n p q r k l u v w x y z s t



## WordBlast

What do you think the word **network** means? What are some modern-day ways that networks are formed?

TEXT: "George Washington, Spymaster" by Anav Sharma, illustrated by Eric Scott Fisher, Appleseeds, © by Corus Publishing Company. Reproduced with permission. All Cricket Media material is copyrighted by Corus Publishing Company, d/b/a Cricket Media, and/or various authors and illustrators. Any commercial use or distribution of material without permission is strictly prohibited. Please visit <http://www.cricketmedia.com/info/licensing2> for licensing and <http://www.cricketmedia.com> for subscriptions. PHOTO: Rudchenko Liliia/Shutterstock.com





George Washington organized a secret spy ring to gather information on British troop movements. His men used invisible ink to hide their messages.

Tallmadge also created a word-number code. The code assigned numbers from 1 to 763 to specific words and names. For example, the number for New York was 727. The number for the word "I" was 280, and the number for "love" was 348. To say "I love New York" in Tallmadge's code, you would use 280-348-727.

The Culper Spy Ring had other codes, and they also used invisible ink. You needed lemon juice to read some messages. Others needed to be heated up. If you needed fire to read a letter, Washington told his agents to put an F in the corner of the letter. If it needed acid, such as lemon juice, Washington told his agents to put an A in the corner of the letter.

Washington's network included people who lived in another country for months, even years, in order to report to him. They knew they risked their lives there, because if they were found out, they would be jailed, sent away, or even killed! We owe a lot to the spies of the American Revolution.

Benjamin Tallmadge created a word-number code like this one.

A			
a.....	1	adopt.....	13
an.....	2	adore.....	14
all.....	3	advise.....	15
at.....	4	adjust.....	16
and.....	5	adjourn.....	17
art.....	6	afford.....	18
arms.....	7	affront.....	19
about.....	8	affair.....	20
absent.....	10	again.....	21
absurd.....	11	April.....	22
adorn.....	12	agent.....	23
		alter.....	24



# Boy Soldier



## Going to war is dangerous—

too dangerous for youngsters. You must be at least eighteen to join the Army. But during the American Revolution, a few underage soldiers slipped in.

Daniel Granger was only thirteen years old when he first served in the Army. Daniel arrived at the camp of the Continental Army near Boston in November 1775. He intended to pick up his sick older brother and bring him home. Instead, Daniel took his brother's place.

"The Weather was extremely cold," wrote Daniel, when he recorded his memories as an old man. He continued:

*And Winter Hill was a high bleak & cold place.*

Daniel was issued a musket, and he was given the duty of standing guard overnight. Later he recalled one scary night at camp:

*About eleven or twelve oclock, the Sentinel that was placed above me, heard the ice trickle down from the Rocks as the Tide fell off, which frightened him, I heard him hale, at the Top of his voice, 'Who comes there' twice I beleave, and then fired off his Gun and ran off.*



*I could hear the Drum beating at the guardhouse to turn out the Guard. I cocked my Gun, looked and lissaned, but could see nor hear anything but the trickling of the Ice on the Shore.*

## Joining the Army Again

Daniel returned home in the spring to work on the family farm. A year later, young Daniel—now fifteen—again enlisted in the Army. The Army traveled everywhere on foot and was marching across the countryside. They cooked their own food, washed their own clothes, and often slept under the open sky.

Daniel's march of almost 200 miles brought him to Saratoga, New York. The colonial troops "were arranged on both sides of the Road, Drums & Fifes playing Yankee doodle, Cannon roaring in all quarters," Daniel wrote. "The whol World seemed to be in motion."

The Battle of Saratoga was a great American victory. After the excitement, Daniel walked home to Massachusetts. On his way home, he awoke one morning to find himself covered with five or six inches of snow.

About a year later, Daniel again joined the Army—this time as a musician. After the war, Daniel returned to the family farm. Later, he became a teacher, but he never forgot his experience as a boy soldier.

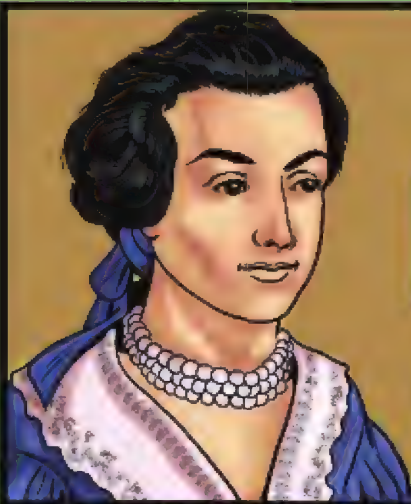




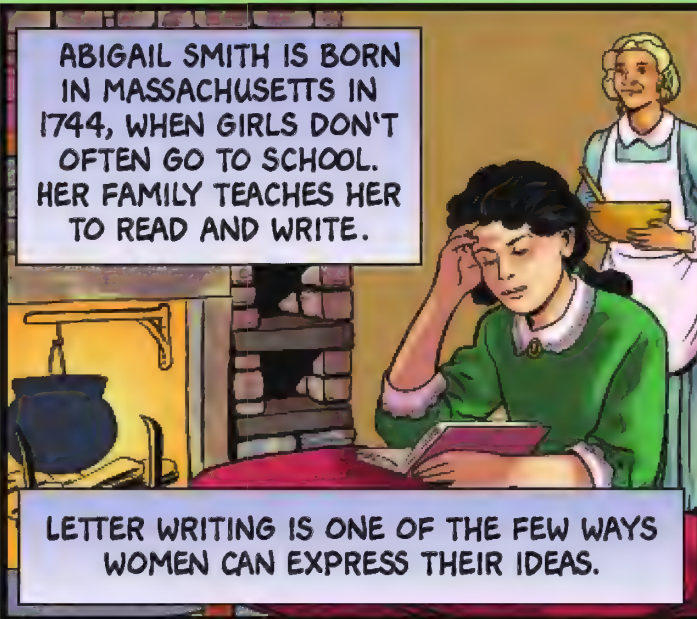
# ABIGAIL ADAMS:

## Letter-Writing Revolutionary

THE LETTERS OF *ABIGAIL ADAMS* PROVIDE A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. WHO IS THIS LETTER-WRITING REVOLUTIONARY?



ABIGAIL SMITH IS BORN IN MASSACHUSETTS IN 1744, WHEN GIRLS DON'T OFTEN GO TO SCHOOL. HER FAMILY TEACHES HER TO READ AND WRITE.



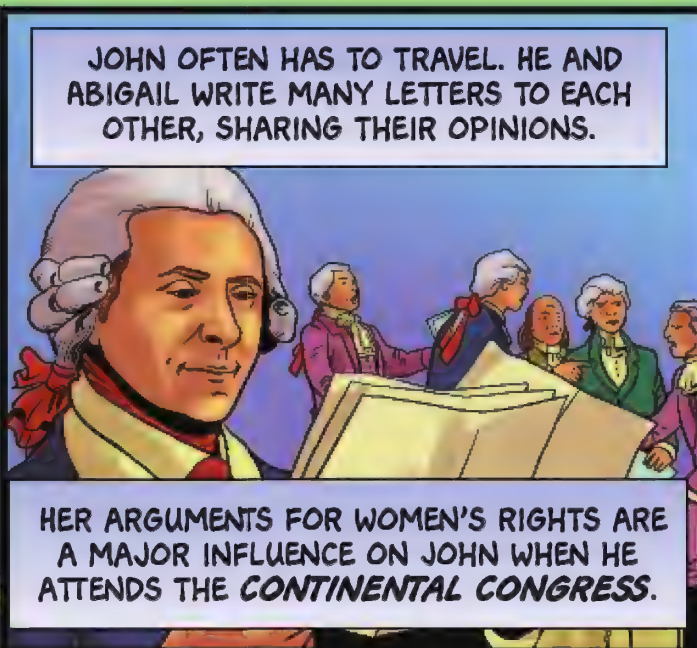
LETTER WRITING IS ONE OF THE FEW WAYS WOMEN CAN EXPRESS THEIR IDEAS.

ABIGAIL LOVES TO DISCUSS LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND POLITICS.



SO DOES JOHN ADAMS, A COUNTRY LAWYER. THEY MARRY IN 1764.

JOHN OFTEN HAS TO TRAVEL. HE AND ABIGAIL WRITE MANY LETTERS TO EACH OTHER, SHARING THEIR OPINIONS.



HER ARGUMENTS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON JOHN WHEN HE ATTENDS THE *CONTINENTAL CONGRESS*.

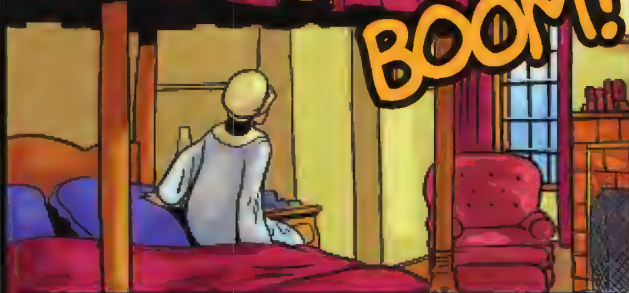
WHILE JOHN IS AWAY, ABIGAIL MANAGES THE FARM, TEACHES THEIR CHILDREN, AND WRITES MORE LETTERS.





ONE MORNING IN 1775, ABIGAIL WAKES UP TO THE SOUND OF CANNON FIRE.

**BOOM!  
BOOM!  
BOOM!**



THE BRITISH ARE MARCHING THROUGH NEARBY CHARLESTOWN, ON THEIR WAY TO THE *BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL*.

ABIGAIL CAN'T EAT OR SLEEP AS THE CANNONS ROAR. SHE WRITES AN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE TO HER HUSBAND. SHE SAYS PEOPLE ARE STILL IN GOOD SPIRITS EVEN THOUGH CHARLESTOWN HAS BEEN BURNED TO THE GROUND.



AS WAR RAGES, ABIGAIL GIVES SHELTER TO SOLDIERS, SEWS UNIFORMS, AND MELTS DOWN HER TABLEWARE FOR AMMUNITION.



WHEN PEACE COMES, JOHN IS NAMED AMERICA'S AMBASSADOR TO THE COURTS OF EUROPE. ABIGAIL JOINS HIM IN PARIS.



ABIGAIL CONTINUES TO BE JOHN'S TRUSTED ADVISOR WHEN HE IS ELECTED THE SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE NEW UNITED STATES.

STORY AND ART:  
**EUREKA  
COMICS**



TODAY WE REMEMBER HER AS A BRAVE WOMAN WHO USED HER PEN TO CHANGE HEARTS AND MINDS.



# A Man of Many Talents

Born in Boston on January 17 — **1706**

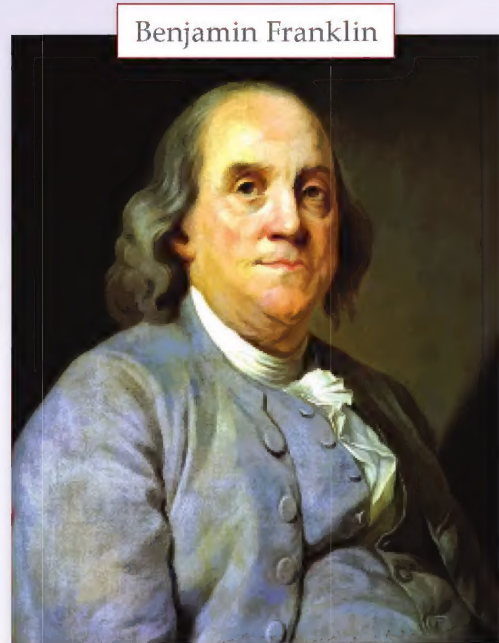
Started publishing  
*Poor Richard's Almanack* — **1733**

Invented the Franklin stove,  
a fireplace lined in metal that  
stands in the middle of a room — **1742**

Proposed his famous kite  
experiment with lightning — **1752**

Served on the committee to write  
the Declaration of Independence — **1776**

Appointed U.S. Minister to France — **1776**



**1783** — As a diplomat, helped to write the  
Treaty of Paris, which brought an  
end to the American Revolution

**1784** — Invented bifocals

**1787** — Served as a delegate to the  
Constitutional Convention

**1790** — Died in Philadelphia on April 17



## EXPLORE the Timeline

- What does the timeline tell about Benjamin Franklin's interests?
- How does the timeline explain the importance of Benjamin Franklin?
- How old was Benjamin Franklin at key moments of his service to the nation?



## Tireless Thinker

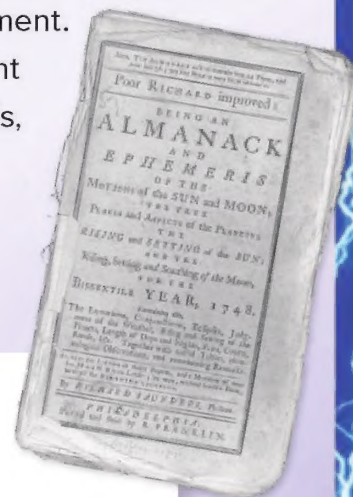
Printer. Author. Statesman. Diplomat. Scientist. Inventor. The list of Benjamin Franklin's jobs and accomplishments goes on and on. How did he have time to accomplish so much? He started when he was young.

Born in Boston to Puritan parents in 1706, Franklin attended school only until he was ten years old, but he didn't stop reading and writing. Soon after, he apprenticed at a printing business. Franklin later opened his own printer's shop in Philadelphia where he produced a newspaper and *Poor Richard's Almanack*.

An almanac is a reference book that includes information on topics such as weather forecasts, holidays, and astronomy. Many almanacs, including *Poor Richard's Almanack*, also featured popular sayings, jokes, and proverbs. Ben Franklin wrote many popular sayings that reflected his sense of humor.

He devoted time to his community in Philadelphia and would eventually start a library, a hospital, and the colonial postal system. Franklin also helped start what would become the University of Pennsylvania and the first fire department.

He would go on to invent the Franklin stove, bifocals, and an instrument called the glass armonica (pictured above).



### PRIMARY SOURCE

#### In Their Words...

Benjamin Franklin used *Poor Richard's Almanack* as a place to record his aphorisms, or sayings. Below are some of his sayings. What do they mean?

"Well done, is twice done."

"He that is of opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money."

"One today is worth two tomorrows."

"Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to gain leisure."

"Fish and visitors stink in three days."



# Remembering The First Rhode Island Regiment

**D**uring the American Revolution, one regiment was made up mostly of African Americans. The First Rhode Island Regiment, also known as “The Black Regiment,” helped ensure the success of the Americans in the American Revolution.

In 1778, Rhode Island had trouble recruiting the troops required by the Continental Congress to fight the British. The Rhode Island legislature decided to have enslaved African Americans fight in the war for the state. These men would be given their freedom at the end of the war. Slave owners received money for any enslaved men who became soldiers.

The new First Rhode Island Regiment, which also included free African Americans, whites, and Narragansett Indians, soon grew to 225 men. The regiment first faced combat at the Battle of Rhode Island in August of 1778, fighting back three attacks by the British.



A Revolutionary War re-enactor poses as a First Rhode Island Regiment soldier in 2003.

After the battle, the regiment was praised for its role by the American commander, General John Sullivan.

In 1781, this regiment united with the Second Rhode Island Regiment to fight at the Battle of Yorktown, the final battle that led to the end of the American Revolution. On December 25, 1783, the regiment was dissolved at Saratoga, New York. Today, the names of those soldiers are **engraved** on a granite monument in Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

## WordBlast

What is the meaning of **engraved**?  
What might be engraved on the outside of your school?



# Take Action!

## More to Explore

What else do you want to learn about the American Revolution?  
Here are some questions to guide your research and discussion.

Paul Revere was one of several riders who warned the Patriots of the British patrols. Two others were William Dawes and Samuel Prescott. Find out more about them.

Write a message to George Washington using the Culper cipher found on page 62.

Find out more about Benjamin Franklin. What do you think were his most interesting contributions to modern American life?

### WordBlast

- Find a monument in your town. What words are **engraved** on it?
- What are the advantages of using a **network** to accomplish a complex task?
- How did the **terrain** add to the difficulty of Sybil Ludington's ride?



### Reflect

What does the revolutionary era tell us about our nation today?